



PH Hometown News

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This issue is dedicated to the award nominees for our Annual Public Health Awards throughout the Air Force. These write ups are very short summaries written in a short paragraph form to help tell some of the major accomplishments they achieved. Please understand that not all of their accomplishments could be listed here. If something major was left out...it was not intentional ...it was only to show what our great people have done in a very short paragraph (due to limited space). I am always very impressed with the high caliber of people we have in our career field. These honorees are no exception. Their award packages are very competitive and each person deserves great rewards.

Next month I will highlight our annual award winners (selected from this "Best of the Best" list. In this issue you will see copies of the medallions that each member will receive at the awards banquet on Thursday night 8 March 2001. They are the "BEST OF THE BEST"!

Chief Strout

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ACC

Airman of the Year: A1C Nicole Garcia from Ellsworth AFB. A1C Garcia managed five separate wing wide programs requiring interaction with local, state, and federal agencies. She designed the first-ever Ellsworth Epidemiology report, collected surveillance data determining "decisions by the numbers" and augmented the new USAF Population Health Epidemiology initiative. She spearheaded PH awareness by orienting 180 airmen at the wing FTAC.

NCO of the Year: SSgt Mary A Bohner from Ellsworth AFB. SSgt Bohner filled in as NCOIC for 90 days during her supervisors TDY. She led the eight per-

son flight with professionalism and ease...expertly filling a master sergeant position. During her deployment to Kuwait, she supported United Nations forces including 4,000 US, British, and Kuwaiti personnel. In addition, she served as a security escort team member for visits by former President Jimmy Carter, Kuwaiti Minister of Defense and current USCENTCOM Commander.

Officer of the Year: Major Paul A. Sjoberg from Langley AFB. Major Sjoberg is an outstanding leader and innovator. He was handpicked by USAF/SG to test the new SPEARR team. He helped

build the CONOPS and refined allowance standards saving over \$17K by reducing the medical footprint. Major Sjoberg's actions during a recent Rift Valley Fever outbreak in Saudi Arabia, alleviated fears and lowered disease transmission risk. Way to go ACC!



AMC

Airman of the Year: SrA Charles C. Gilman II from McChord AFB. SrA Gilman professionally conducted a high-profile malaria epidemiological investigation and reported findings to the state public health department. His efforts impacted policy changes and decision-making to ensure maximum protection for deploying troops and consistency in screening procedures. He built a great rapport with UDMs to guarantee continued success!

NCO of the Year: TSgt Lesley J. Arana from McConnell AFB. TSgt Arana provided active oversight of the Occupational Health Program resulting in the highest compliance rate in AMC an astounding 93%. When wash rack workers were identified with an increased illness rate she worked aggressively to develop a "one doctor" protocol resulting in an 85% decreased illness rate. Her coordination with the Fire Department resulted in a clearly defined peacetime decontamination mission.

Officer of the Year: Major Samuel D. Hall III from Scott AFB. Major Hall is a true force protector. As the MGRL Team Chief, he led a deployment team to Andersen AFB Guam in support of six Tanker Air Lift Control Elements for a Presidential trip to Brunei, Darrasalam, Mylasia, and Vietnam. His superb airfield survey provided timely, accurate and mission critical information for success. His computer knowledge and expertise guided the USAF in developing critical software requirements for the PIMR. Way to go!

AETC

Airman of the Year: A1C Howard S. Santos from Luke AFB.

A1C Santos skillfully crafted comprehensive occupational health procedure flow charts which ensured program continuity and streamlined office processes. He continuously surpassed his peers and was selected as a member of the Base Honor Guard team where he supported over 700 detail requests per year and directly contributed to the transformation of the program into the benchmark for AETC.

NCO of the Year: MSgt Diana L. Lacy from Vance AFB.

As the Chief of Public Health at Vance AFB for over 4 years, MSgt Lacy provided the senior leadership for all assigned public health personnel...she didn't just conduct highly

successful programs, she far exceeded all leadership expectations. As if that weren't enough, she also managed first sergeant duties for 90 days. An extremely versatile NCO, as first sergeant she took the point during a wing change of command and led a perfect drill performance by the group. A public health trailblazer, she showcased several Healthy People 2010 projects in an outstanding PH week presentation to the community!

Officer of the Year: Major William T. Bennet from Luke AFB.

Major Bennet directed preventive medicine programs for 601,000 beneficiaries in five states. He engineered an automated passive sur-

veillance system to detect and trend occupational and infectious diseases saving over 2,000 PH man hours annually and identifying, investigating and reporting over 650 disease cases.

As principal investigator of a gastroenteritis outbreak in a technical training population, he professionally and precisely investigated the outbreak with conclusive resolution! Way to Go AETC!



AFMC

Airman of the Year: SrA Jennifer S. Wells from Wright Patterson AFB.

SrA Wells was the first to volunteer for 60 day manning assistance to Edwards AFB to help prepare them for an HSI. She created computer logs for multiple disease programs, reviewed medical records and developed several overprint forms. She impeccably managed the hospital employee health program and achieved a compliance rate of over 95 percent.

NCO of the Year: MSgt Joseph M.

Mulhern from Tinker AFB. MSgt Mulhern aggressively worked to reduce a severe backlog in audiograms...more than 2,000 exams. His results increased compliance by more than 19 %. He was handpicked as the quality facilitator in a squadron of 176 and the obvious choice for Medical Group Information Management Committee team leader. He tracked and reported Medical Group Quality Performance Indicators, worked as CHCS project manager in the Occupational Health facility.

Officer of the Year: Major Charles H.

Blakeslee, Jr from Eglin AFB. A false positive Hantavirus screening test set up a potential

public relations nightmare and gave Major Blakeslee a risk communication challenge. His tenacity and skillful coordination efforts resulted in a massive education effort ensuring the safety of the local area...panic averted! As the environmental and vector borne disease champion for Eglin AFB, his programs are extensive and exhaustive. He is a mission oriented officer who reengineered a successful deployment process ensuring rapid, accurate and timely prevention to deploying forces! Way to go AFMC!

SPACE COMMAND

Airman of the Year: SrA Evangeline San Miguel from Vandenberg AFB.

SrA San Miguel initiated a critical multidisciplinary working group to streamline patient care driving 100% compliance with patient appointments. She skillfully summarized Disease Occurrence Worldwide guidelines and created easy-to-read medical intelligence briefs on diseases found in multiple countries. As an

invaluable asset to the prestigious 30th Space Wing "Team Vandenberg" Honor Guard...earned her 2 Achievement Medals for outstanding service and commitment.

NCO of the Year: SSgt Rusty E. Mardis from Malmstrom AFB.

SSgt Mardis coordinated occupational examination compliance for over 2,750 separate medical screenings. An active member of the Skunk

Works committee, his newcomers initiative to improve internal processes and increase customer service awareness was profiled in AF Skunk Tales. As the Wing Program manager for Airman Against Drunk Drivers, he protected over \$640 million in AF assets and helped decrease the DUI rate more than 32%. His program was lauded by 20th AF Major General McMahon.

PACAF

Airman of the Year: SrA Stephanie Holt from Elmendorf AFB.

SrA Holt established the first ever food safety/sanitation trend analysis for Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia and provided commanders a quick reference on the status of all food activities on base. She was handpicked to monitor the Anthrax compliance for over 800 AEG personnel with a 94.5% compliance rate. She provided flawless support of 186 medics deploying to Saudi Arabia, Laos, Vietnam, East Timor, and FOAL EAGLE.

NCO of the Year: TSgt Gary J. Hadden from Elmendorf AFB.

TSgt Hadden has readiness as his top priority. He implemented preventive medicine briefings for over 1,400 personnel, directed 23 major deployments to 28 countries without a deployment related illness. He was selected as a regional biological terrorism expert for Anchorage exercise developers. As the 3rd Wing Middle Tier Association President, he mentored and developed over 1,000 NCOs and is considered a leader among leaders!

Officer of the Year: Captain Nisara Suthun from Kunsan AB.

Capt Suthun was the Acting Aerospace Medicine Flight Commander for six diverse elements and adroitly managed complex personnel issues with minimal impact on flight performance. Capt Suthun's expert mentoring skills built a dynamic team of stellar professionals winning many awards at various levels. As Lead Agent for FOAL EAGLE, Capt Suthun's leadership resulted in protection of over 1,000 incoming forces. Way to go!

USAFE

Airman of the Year: A1C Grant P. Prince from Spangdahlem AB. A1C Prince was lauded for his work with Unit Deployment Managers to identify and correct post-deployment medical questionnaire roster mistakes. In only 30 days he eliminated all roster errors and ensured the long term solution by providing documentation packages to wing UDMs! He was the driving force behind Public Health intervention at the wing First Term Airmen Center and improved the wing's occupational health exam compliance rate!

NCO of the Year: SSgt James P. Smith Jr. from RAF Lakenheath. SSgt Smith was handpicked to become a trainer for EMEDS personnel on the new Alaska tent and associated medical equipment. When

DeCA received 67 complaints in 40 days on a new pork vendor, his guidance and suggested modifications to the contract saved potential rejections worth \$1.7 million. He was the catalyst in the first ever Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Program for DeCA Central Meat Distribution Center... which was later adopted as the DeCA Europe Standard!

Officer of the Year: Captain Javier Ruiz from RAF Lakenheath. Captain Ruiz is a rock solid leader. He expertly directed two successful meningococcal disease investigations. He organized the investigation team; developed public awareness informational handouts, answered over 500 calls; tracked contacts all the way to California and Saudi Arabia; and within 24 hours ensured treat-

ment of an astonishing 95% of the 154 close contacts. He pioneered a new occupational health telephonic consultation checklist that saved 200 inspection hours annually. His customer focused HAZCOM training program was given at flexible locations and times raising compliance to well over 95%. Way to go Team USAFE!



USAF A

Airman of the Year: SrA Sonja R. Berry. SrA Berry conducted a meticulous food and public facility sanitation program. As an evaluator and educator she provided on target feedback to supervisors, wrote 17 fact sheets, and provided high quality training. She developed a comprehensive handout for Child Development Center and Home Day Care providers that ensured they were properly trained in handling food. She expertly conducted and managed the Medical Intelligence Program and provided timely medical disease threat data, tracked post deployments, monitored 90 day follow-ups and increased compliance by 10 percent.

NCO of the Year: SSgt Stacey D. Baer. SSgt Baer provided the benchmark for continuous process improvement to numerous Occupational Health Programs. She identified a major problem with follow-up of personnel with Permanent Hearing Threshold Shifts, then worked as a Process Action Team member to improve follow-up by 37%. Her aggressive leadership led to a dramatic improvement in the clinic employee health program, increasing the rate of employees receiving required exams from 72% to 100% in just four months.

Staff NCO

Public Health Staff Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year: TSgt (S) Robb Gudgel is the PH Career Development Course writer and the USAFSAM web master. His technical wizardry allowed him to expertly create and maintain an outstanding internet web system that provides an extreme wealth of information to Team Aerospace personnel all around the world. He is a highly polished writer and charismatic instructor who is consistently lauded by students and staff alike.



ANG

ANG NCO of the Year: MSgt Monica L. Parks from Otis ANGB.

As the Region 1 Communication Advocate, MSgt Parks is a recognized expert who provided guidance and mentored her colleagues on a daily basis. She worked closely with line functional experts to develop a database to identify deployment requirements. This innovative program saved the wing countless man hours and resulted in deployed personnel being 100% world-wide qualified. During a planned summer camp, she aided local authorities with early intervention and treatment of over 80 Civil Air Patrol cadets who were suspected of E. coli exposure from local stagnant waters. This was the largest

WORLD-WIDE TELECONFERENCE ... two to choose from...

Thursday 5 APR 2001

1. 0800—0930 hours Central Time (0900 Eastern 0600 Pacific)
 2. 1500-1630 hours Central Time (1600 Eastern and 1430 Pacific)
- DSN: 576-0511**

mass casualty incident ever on Cape Cod.

ANG Officer of the Year: 2Lt James B. Scott from March ARB CA. Lt Scott's organizational skills led to a very successful multi-unit training exercise involving the Public Health sections of three different medical units which fostered and enhanced training while increasing overall mission effectiveness at these units. His multiple talents led to his selection as the Officer in Charge for not only Public Health, but Bioenvironmental Engineering and Nutritional Medicine Services sections as well. Lt Scott's superb mentorship greatly

enhanced both enlisted and officer personnel throughout the unit. Way to Go ANG!



11th MDG

Officer of the Year: The 11th MDG is a Direct Reporting Unit and **Captain Jason D. Wong** is their winner. As the architect of deployment surveillance at **Bolling AFB**, Capt Wong crafted a successful mission-focused program for deployers which included the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. He served as an interim Aerospace Medicine B Flight Commander for more than two months, met all flight suspenses and diligently supervised 25 flight members. He also provided oversight at Andrews AFB Public Health during a two month manning shortfall.

PH Staff Officer

From Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis (AFIERA): Lt Col Roger Gibson (Brooks AFB). As a staff Epidemiologist, Lt Col Gibson directed and analyzed over 23 major studies affecting force health protection and readiness of our forces. His efforts provided essential evidence-based information to DoD health policy makers for critical programs. His superb risk communication skills led to his selection as the AF spokesperson for many of these studies where he received national media attention. Lt Col Gibson is also an accomplished adjunct instructor for both USAFSAM and the University of Texas Health Science Center.

From Air Force Medical operations Agency: Major Lisa T. Pegues (Bolling AFB). Major Pegues is known as "The" Surgeon General's anthrax guru; being at the tip of the spear for this highly volatile program she tirelessly kept AF leadership abreast of all aspects of the DoD Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program. She was the mastermind behind the AF Anthrax Education Program distributing educational material to more than 610,000 members achieving over 96% compliance. She is now meeting new challenges as the action officer for AFMOA's PIMR Working Group. These are two extra fine staff officers!